

Message Text

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13

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN:BDS

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250823

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: CHOW SHU-KAI'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

REF: TAIPEI 6504

1. CHOW SHU-KAI'S NOVEMBER 13 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WAS CORDIAL, BUT UNEVENTFUL. OTHER THAN EXPRESSING HOPE THAT NO MORE "DRAMA" WAS IN STORE FOR ROC AND BRIEFLY MENTIONING HIS THEORY THAT US SHOULD ADOPT POLICY OF "BENIGN NEGLECT" TOWARD "BOTH CHINAS," CHOW DID NOT PROBE INTO US-PRC RELATIONS OR SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PRC. HABIB DESCRIBED VISIT AS IN KEEPING WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE AND COMMENTED THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE ACCORDED "BENIGN NEGLECT."

2. CHOW MENTIONED HIS RECENT TOUR OF ROC ESTABLISHMENTS IN EUROPE. HE WAS PLEASED BY HIS WARM RECEPTION IN SPAIN AND ENCOURAGED THAT ROC EMBASSY IN LISBON, THE LAST ROC DIPLOMATIC POST IN EUROPE, MIGHT HANG ON FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR MORE THANKS IN PART TO THE PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET ATTITUDE OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS.

3. CHOW ASKED FOR OUR INTERPRETATION OF RECENT PRC ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO SOVIETS, NOTING THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NOT MUCH NEW IN IT. HABIB SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS; BUT IN ANY EVENT IT WAS APPARENT FROM SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE MESSAGE AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY COMMENT TO DATE THAT MOSCOW WAS CAREFULLY STUDYING THE MATTER. KISSINGER

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